

Weathering and Soil Formation ▪ *Guided Reading and Study***Soil Conservation**

This section explains why soil is valuable. The section also explains how soil can be damaged or lost, as well as how it can be conserved.

Use Target Reading Skills

Look at the figure of the Dust Bowl in your textbook, and in the graphic organizer below, write two questions you have about the visuals. As you read about soil conservation, write the answers to your questions.

Q. Where was the Dust Bowl?
A.
Q.
A.

Introduction

1. The thick mass of tough roots at the surface of the soil is called _____.

The Value of Soil

2. Is the following sentence true or false? Natural resources are anything made by humans. _____
3. Why is soil one of Earth's most valuable resources?

4. Is the following sentence true or false? Soil can be found wherever weathering occurs. _____

Weathering and Soil Formation ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

5. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about soil.

- a. Soil is a nonrenewable resource.
- b. Soil formation takes a long time.
- c. Fertile soil is plentiful.
- d. Half of Earth has soils that are good for farming.

Soil Damage and Loss

6. How can soil be damaged?

7. How can soil be lost?

8. How can plants protect soil from water erosion?

9. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the Great Plains.

- a. The Great Plains have fertile soil.
- b. Rainfall decreases from east to west across the Great Plains.
- c. The Great Plains begin at the Appalachian Mountains.
- d. The Great Plains have never been farmed or used for ranches.

10. Circle the letter of each state that was part of the Dust Bowl.

- a. Oklahoma
- b. Kansas
- c. Texas
- d. Missouri

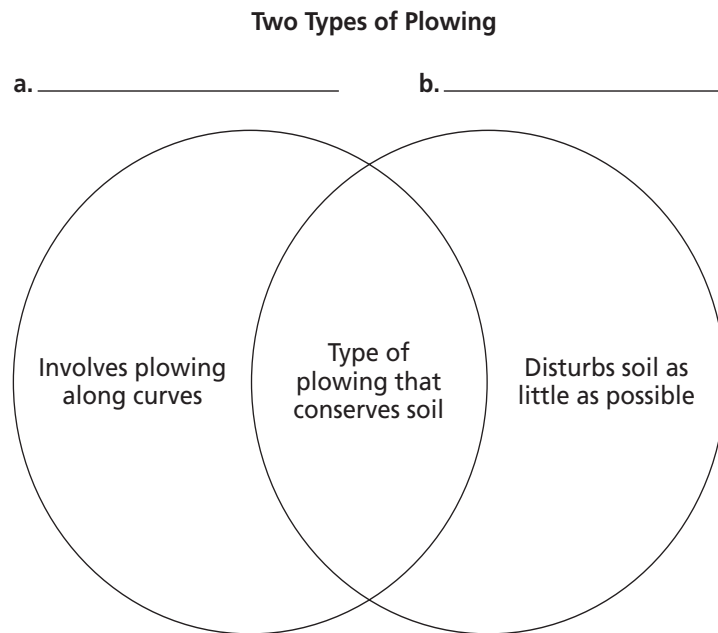
11. Why did the Dust Bowl occur?

12. Why did the Dust Bowl lead to the adoption of modern methods of saving the soil?

Weathering and Soil Formation ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Soil Conservation

13. The management of soil to prevent its destruction is referred to as _____.
14. Complete the Venn diagram.



15. How do the two types of plowing in the diagram help conserve soil?
